



## Abortion

*Civil Society perspectives on Sexual and Reproductive Health, Rights and Justice in Latin America and the Caribbean.*

**FÒS FEMINISTA**

# Best Practice



## Context

In 2021, the Ministry of Health and the National Center for Gender Equity and Reproductive Health in **Mexico** developed the Technical Guidelines for Safe Abortion Care.<sup>clviii</sup> This initiative established measures for the National Health System services to implement across the country. The guidelines mandated the presence of at least one safe abortion service in each state, ensuring access to abortion services in specific cases. This mandate was accompanied by resources that ensured its successful implementation.



## Challenge

Despite progressive guidelines, effective implementation of safe abortion services across diverse regions of **Mexico** remained a challenge. Regional variations in service provision, destigmatizing abortion, and integrating the guidelines seamlessly into existing healthcare structures required addressing.

## The Initiatives

### “Maternidad Elegida”

**Location:** Cuautitlán, in the northern zone of the State of Mexico.

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**Model:** Operates effectively under the name “*Maternidad Elegida*” and is managed by obstetric nurse professionals.

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**Effectiveness:** Serves as a role model for the successful implementation of safe abortion services and is considered a first-rate service, due to its specialized nature.

### Clinic in Pachuca

**Location:** City of Pachuca.  
**Model:** Established post-decriminalization in 2021 to provide comprehensive SRHS, with a primary focus on abortion services. Abortion services extended to 15 hospitals across the region.

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**Effectiveness:** Two years after legal reforms, Hidalgo's state health services registered 1,884 abortions, with **99%** being medically induced. The Maternal and Child Hospital in Pachuca emerged as a leader with 757 abortions.

## System-wide Adaptation Pandemic Response

**Essential Services:** SRHS, including abortion services, were declared essential during the pandemic. <sup>clix</sup>

**Adaptations:** Specialized Centers for Legal Interruption of Pregnancy in Mexico City, like the Beatriz Velasco de Alemán Health Center, implemented measures such as separate entrances and extended weekend hours to adapt to pandemic constraints. This expanded schedule remains up to date.

## Key Takeaways

### **Specialized Care:**

Maternidad Elegida in Cuautitlán demonstrated that effective management and specialized care can make safe abortion services a success.

### **Service Integration and Resource Allocation:**

Establishment of a clinic in Pachuca showcased the importance of providing comprehensive reproductive health services alongside abortion services. Allocating resources for safe abortion services played a crucial role in destigmatization efforts.

### **Pandemic Resilience:**

Recognizing SRHS as essential during the pandemic ensured continuity. Adapting service delivery methods, as seen in Mexico City, demonstrated the resilience of the healthcare system under challenging circumstances.

### **Data Transparency:**

Transparent reporting of abortion figures allowed for effective monitoring and evaluation in Hidalgo. Access to updated data on miscarriages within the public health system is essential to understanding trends in abortion.

This best practice highlights the success and challenges of implementing safe abortion services in **Mexico**, emphasizing the importance of local adaptation, comprehensive service provision, pandemic resilience, and transparent data reporting. These key takeaways can guide future initiatives and contribute to further improvements in reproductive healthcare services nationwide and across the region.

**Fòs Feminista** is an intersectional feminist organization centered on the rights and needs of women, girls, and gender-diverse people in the Global South. We recognize that the ability to make free and informed decisions about sexual and reproductive health, including the ability to access safe and legal abortion, is central to gender equity and to the fulfillment of the human rights of women, girls, and all people who can become pregnant.

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